

Reichold Chemical  
Ferndale  
M/  
J  
2/18/83

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



473040

**WESTON-SPER**

TO: Mr. Robert Bowden

18 February 1983

FROM: Technical Assistance Team

TAT-05-F-00069

VIA: Jack Thorsen *JW*

RE: Formaldehyde/phenol spill at the Reichold Chemical Co.  
601 Woodward Ave. Ferndale, MI  
TDD # 5-8301-13

On Tuesday 25 January, 1983, Mr. Ross Powers of the U.S. EPA requested that TAT personnel respond to the scene of a chemical release at the Reichold Chemical Co. in Ferndale, Michigan. An estimated 12,000 pounds of a viscous resin material had been released from a steel tanker. Personnel from Reichold Chemical were involved in the cleanup.

TAT member John Dourjalian responded to the spill site to monitor cleanup activities. According to Mr. John Broderick, plant manager of the facility, plant employees first noticed smoke venting from the hatch of a steel tanker at 9:30 a.m. The material in the tanker was discharged onto the ground to reduce the explosion hazard due to material reacting in the tanker. The tanker contained a water-soluble laminating resin of 70% formaldehyde and phenol.

Absorbent material was used to construct a dike around the tanker. Fifty-five gallon drums were placed over the top of two manhole covers in an attempt to prevent the material from entering the sanitary sewer system. Approximately 9,000 pounds of the material was contained within the diked area. This was removed with the absorbent material and shoveled into 55-gallon drums for disposal. An estimated 3,000 gallons of the liquid flowed into a sewer catch basin located on the property. Two thousand eight hundred pounds of the material was removed from the catch basin using a high powered vac truck. The remaining 200 pounds of resin entered the sanitary sewer line (refer to attached map). The line was flushed with water and the material was collected in an adjoining catch basin. Mr. Broderick stated that approximately 50 pounds of the resin was not recovered.

Officials from Detroit Metropolitan Sewage Treatment and the Reichold Chemical Co. plant continued to monitor the sanitary sewer lines. The estimated 50 pounds of the material not recovered would enter the Detroit Metropolitan Sanitary System. The effect of this resin on the treatment facility is unknown. Cleanup of the spill was completed on Wednesday, 26 January 1983.

A map of the facility showing sewer lines and catch basins is attached along with the TAT site safety plan and several photographs of the cleanup effort.

Very truly yours,

*JW Thorsen for*  
John Dourjalian

JD:cls

cc: Ross Powers

REICHOLD CHEMICAL  
FERNDAL E MICHIGAN

- FLOW  
□ CATCH BASIN  
○ SEWER LINE (manhole)

LOCAL  
INDUSTRY

TRUCK  
WASH

MARQUETTE AVE.

MINERVA AVE.

104  
BLOK

103  
BLOK

105  
BLOK

G

# WESTON SPER

Region 5  
Date 1/25/83  
TDD# 5-8301-3

## SAFETY PLAN

### A. Incident Description

1. Location Reichold Chemical Co.  
601 Woodward  
Ferndale, MI
2. Date 1/25/83
3. Type: Spill ☒ Fire ☐ HW Site ☐ Other ☐
4. Status ongoing
5. Response Objectives
6. Background Review: Complete ☒ Partial ☐  
If partial, why?
7. Hazard Level: High ☐ Moderate ☐ Low ☒ Unknown ☐  
Inhalation ☐ Ingestion ☐ Contact ☐ External ☐
8. Site Plan/Sketch Attached Yes ☒ No ☐
9. Background Material attached Yes ☒ No ☐

### B. Material Description

1. Type: Liquid ☐ Solid ☐ Sludge ☐ Vapor/Gas ☐ RESIN
2. Chemical Name/Class Resin 70% phenol formaldehyde
3. Characteristics: Corrosive ☐ Ignitable ☐ Volatile ☐  
Toxic ☒ Reactive ☒ Biological Agent ☐
4. Toxicity: TLV 5 ppm steam IDLH 100 ppm
5. Special Hazards none
6. Acute Exposure Symptoms Occasional reaction to skin of allergic individuals

C. Site Description

1. Size one square block
2. Surrounding Population Industrial
3. Buildings/Homes Industrial
4. Topography flat
5. Receiving Waters Detroit Sanitary Sewer line
6. Weather Cold and cloudy
7. Unusual Features none
8. Site History none

D. Personnel Protection

1. Entry Level of Protective clothing : A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☒
2. If not B, why? situation did not demand that level B protection be donned.
3. Site Instrument Readings:  
% O2 \_\_\_\_\_ % LEL \_\_\_\_\_  
Radioactivity \_\_\_\_\_ HNU \_\_\_\_\_  
OVA \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. Was protective level up or downgraded: Yes ☐ No ☒  
Up or Down graded to: A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐  
Why \_\_\_\_\_  
Actual Change: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Respirator Protective Equipment:  
SCBA \_\_\_\_\_ Canister Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Gas Mask \_\_\_\_\_ Cartridge Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Ultra Twin \_\_\_\_\_  
Dust Mask \_\_\_\_\_
6. Protective Clothing:  
Hard hat disposable boots  
disposable suit face shield  
disposable glove steel toed work boots

## 7. Field Monitoring Equipment and Materials:

camera		

## E. Decontamination Procedures

1. Attach sketch showing Exclusion Zone, Contamination Reduction Zone, Support Zone and numerically labelled Decontamination Stations.
2. For each decontamination station note procedure and materials needed on an attachment page.  
disposable clothes were removed and placed in a trash bag for disposal.

## F. General Information

### 1. Team members

John Dourjalian	

### 2. Site Safety Coordinator John Dourjalian

## G. Emergency Information

1. Have nearby people been evacuated: Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes ever how large an area \_\_\_\_\_
2. First Aid Instructions Remove victim from area  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Sources of help

	Name	Town	Phone	Notified	
				Yes	No
Fire	Ferndale Fire	Ferndale	541-3600	X	
Police	" Police	"	541-8650	X	
Ambulance	" Ambulance	"	541-3600	X	
Hospital	William Beaumont	Royal Oak	288-8000		X
Poison Information			494-5711		X
Airport	Big Beaver Airport	Troy	689-2345		X
Helipoint					
Site Telephone	Reichold Chemical	Ferndale	542-0200	X	
Nearest Telephone	"	"	"	X	

4. Emergency Telephone Numbers

WESTON Hot Line  
WESTON NPD  
P. B. Lederman - NPM  
S. M. Gertz - HSO  
Medical Emergency  
EPA - ERT Emergency  
Chemtrec  
Central Disease Control  
National Pesticide  
Medical Emergency

215-524-1925 or 1926  
215-431-0797 or 0798 or 692-3030  
**NON-RESPONSIVE**  
513-421-3063 (National Service)  
201-321-6660  
800-424-9300  
404-329-3311 (day) 404-329-3644 (night)  
800-845-7633  
(Regional Service)

Prepared by John Dourjalian  
Date 1/25/83

Approved by *Doyle Ballant*  
Date 2/14/83

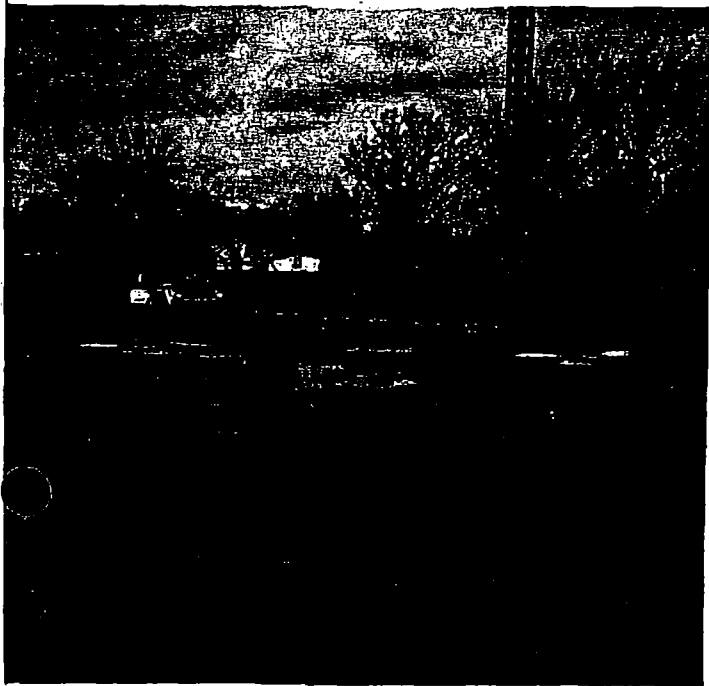
(For HSO Use Only)

Reviewed and Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Action Required? Yes ☒ No ☒ If yes, what action \_\_\_\_\_

Followup carried out? Date \_\_\_\_\_

S. O. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



1/25/83

Cleanup Efforts



1/25/83

Cleanup Efforts

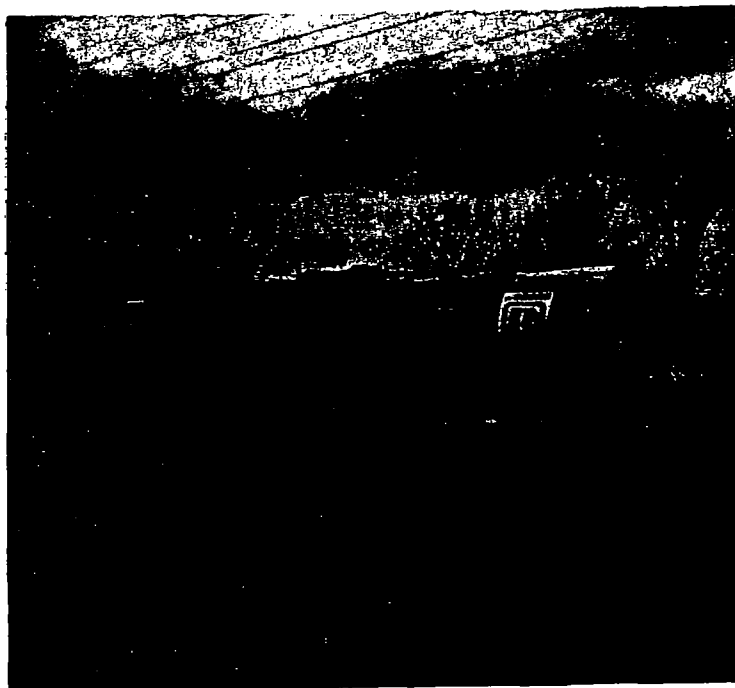
1/25/83

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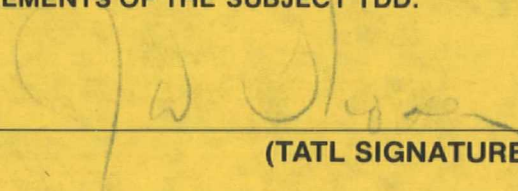





1/25/83

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<b>1. COST CENTER:</b>  	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMPLETION FOR TDD TAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE, REMOVAL AND PREVENTION  ROY F. WESTON, INC.</b>	<b>2. NO.: 5-8301-13</b> <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETE <input type="checkbox"/> INTERIM
<b>3. RESPONSE:</b> <u>Attached is a letter report summarizing events in</u> <u>TATs emergency response to a formaldehyde/phenol spill at</u> <u>Reichold Chemical Co., Ferndale, Michigan</u>          		<input type="checkbox"/> FORMAL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> FORMAL BRIEFING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
<b>3A. ACTUAL TOTAL COST:</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">\$325.00</div>	<b>3B. ACTUAL TOTAL HOURS:</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">15</div>	
<b>4. DPO ACTION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED WITH EXCEPTIONS <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED		
<b>5. COMMENTS:</b> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
<b>6. I CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED MATERIALS MEET AND COMPLY WITH ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUBJECT TDD.</b>  <div style="text-align: center;">         _____        (TATL SIGNATURE)     </div>		<b>7. DATE:</b>  <div style="text-align: center;">         _____     </div>
<b>8. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH THE MATERIALS AND SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THE SUBJECT TDD WITHIN ITS ORIGINAL OR REVISED TIME FRAMES.</b>  <div style="text-align: center;">         _____        (AUTHORIZING DPO SIGNATURE)     </div>		<b>9. DATE:</b>  <div style="text-align: center;">         _____     </div>